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MONTREAL, QUEBEC

McGill goes to Central America

by Phinjo Gombu

The "International March for Peace" which began in Panama city is now into its fifth week. The marchers are presently camped on the border of Nicaragua and Honduras. The governments of El Salvador and Honduras have refused to grant the marchers entry permits despite the fact that there have been big demonstrations in San Salvador and Tegucigalpa in support of the marchers.

The march for peace consists of three hundred people from twenty countries around the world. It is a non-partisan group

that is not representative of any government or ideology. The members of the group reflect diverse views and opinions but are linked together by a common concern to encourage an atmosphere where 'dialogue' might facilitate the peace process in Central America. The marchers support the 'Contadora peace initiative', which demands the right to self determination, and want to show solidarity with all who seek an end to the conflict in the region.

David Alper, a continuing education student at McGill University was part of the Canadian contingent and spent

over three weeks with the march. In an interview with *The Daily* he talked about his experiences in Central America and the varying situations that the marchers found themselves in.

The march began well enough on December 10th- International human rights day in Panama city. The group received official support from the Panamanian government and spent five days in the country meeting community groups, university students and peasants.

Alper found the people of Panama very supportive of the

march as well as fearful of the possibility of war in the region. "Panama is a country which has not completely forgotten the way in which it was created and is a young country which still vividly remembers what it means to be dominated by a foreign power" he said.

Although the government of President Delvalle is a civilian one, like most areas in the region the real power is in the hands of the army, thereby heightening tensions" he added.

The reception was, however, very different in neighbouring Costa Rica. The marchers were held up at the border for thirty six hours before being allowed to enter the country. Extreme right elements, who are increasingly gaining influence on the Costa Rican government, ran a well financed and organized campaign in the media, denouncing the marchers in full page advertisements in the newspapers and paid time on the T.V. stations. A two minute silence was also observed on private television stations.

Nevertheless, the campaign did not deter support for the march from Code Paz, a broad coalition of forty national groups which included woman and peace interests. Due to international pressure a twelve hour visa was changed to seventy two hours, and under armed escort the group made it to San Jose.

The welcome there was mixed. It included two hundred supporters for the march as well as fifty members of the 'Costa Rica Libre', a neo-fascist group who turned violent and threw bricks and tear gas at the marchers.

Despite numerous injuries amongst the Costa Ricans who had turned out in support of the marchers, the police did nothing. The violence continued for three hours, until the arrival of Benjamin Piza, the security minister (later to be verified as a founding member of the Costa Rica Libre group). His first act was to revoke the just given visa and to ask the marchers to leave the country the next morning. In addition a warning was issued that if the marchers remained the government would be unable to protect the marchers from the Costa Rica Libre group.

According to Alper the incident reflected the direction the government is taking. He said some Costa Ricans who were supporting the march had

pointed out that the incident was an isolated one. The violence, according to them, had been deliberately provoked by neo-fascist elements within the government who were trying to find excuses to facilitate the rapid militarization of the country. (Although Costa Rica does not have a military, it does have an extremely well armed civic guard).

Costa Rica at one time known as 'the Switzerland of Central America' because of the stability of the country today has the highest per capita debt in Latin America. In addition Costa Rica is also used by the U.S. backed contras as a base from which to carry out their war against Nicaragua. Alper said he had talked to one of the armed escorts taking the group to the border who had told him about their bases and the mercenaries who come from all over the world. His escort in this case had been trained by the U.S. Green Berets.

In keeping with the marchers vacillating fortunes, the group was warmly received on the Nicaraguan border by hundreds of villagers. The marchers were allowed to visit different regions in the country and one of its delegations met President Ortega and his cabinet on live national television. The government answered the marchers' questions about its policies while another delegation met members of the opposition and La Prensa, the opposition's daily newspaper.

"It was interesting to note the government's position on issues like the treatment of the Mosquito Indians," he said. The government admitted to the mistakes they had made in their treatment of the Indians. They had earlier referred to them as *Contras* and had relocated them from the war zone where they had been seen as a possible source of help to the Contras.

The trouble stemmed from a cultural difference between the Indians and the majority hispanic population. The government is now in the process of ironing out the difficulties and many of the Mosquito Indians are being allowed to go back to their homes. "It is significant," he said, "that the Sandinistas no longer refer to the armed Indians as Contras but instead called them 'Alzados' (the people that have risen up)."

continued on page 6



DAILY PHOTO - DAVID ALPER

Central American Peace March progresses undaunted by setbacks

Bursary survival tips

by Robert Costain

Many students have encountered problems with the eligibility criteria for Québec loans and bursaries as well as the problem of paying interest on one's loans after graduation. There exist, however, a couple of simple potential solutions to the most common problems.

Some students find that they do not qualify for a loan, or only qualify for a very small loan because they are considered dependents of their parents, even though they live on their own. The Régie des prêts et bourses considers a student to be independent only after having lived away from home

and/or worked for a period of two years.

Students who do not receive support from their parents, but who do not meet the criteria are considered dependent, and are only entitled to financial aid based on their parents income.

It is possible to have oneself declared independent through the services of a lawyer or notary. Both student and parents must sign affidavits declaring that the student does not receive financial support.

Students wishing more information about legal status are advised to contact McGill Legal Aid in the Union basement.

Many students who do not

find employment immediately upon graduation often have difficulties in repaying their government loans. Banks begin charging interest on student loans six months after graduation.

Canada Manpower may be able to help students who are unemployed and have to pay back loans with interest. If the former student provides adequate proof that s/he is looking for work, Employment and Immigration may pay for the interest on the loans until employment is found.

Students in such a predicament are advised to seek the advice of their local Manpower office for further information.

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NOTE

ALLOW SEVERAL DAYS FOR YOUR PAYMENT TO BE PROCESSED.

REGISTRAR'S OFFICE



Students speak with mouths full

by Marnie Waxman

McGill students eating in the Union Building cafeteria yesterday were asked their opinions on the quality and price of the cafeteria food.

Today's special consisting of spaghetti, salad and soup was good. The food was hot and I was satisfied.
David Bloom
Arts, U1

Last semester I had salisbury steak that was horrible, it gave me stomach aches.

Neil Rabinovitch
Arts, U1

I love the hamburgers, I have three everytime but the fries are cold. It ain't McDonald's but at least it's nearby.
Danny Frankel
Science, U2

There's not enough variety. I don't like the food so I try not to eat there that often.

Monica Brody
Arts, U1

The bagels are always fresh. The hot water should be hotter, it's not boiled and the tea bags aren't fresh.

Marjorie Mayers
Arts, U1

3 stars. For cafeteria food it's quite satisfactory.

Lorn Brotman
Management, U2

The tacos were not edible, I was not well enough to go to my next class.

Peter Rusk
Arts, U1

The grilled cheese and tomato sandwich had a lot of tomatoes but wasn't cooked enough. It was soggy instead of crispy. The french fries were lying there for too long and were hard to swallow. The orange juice was very good.

Seth Dalfen
Arts, U1

The fries were overdone and stale. The portion was skimpy. The salami sandwich had too much mustard, it tasted like a mustard sandwich.

Michael Kleinman
Arts, U1

The breakfast special is excellent and a good deal.

Joyce Felner
Arts, U1

The food is great, the assortment is amazing, great specials and good prices. The salad bar is fattening, there are no raw vegetables.

Perry Ross
Arts, U3

The coffee is not drinkable and there is no sweet and low.

Ruth Bensimon
Arts, U1

The pre-packaged sandwiches are salty with wilted lettuce. I ate a bagel with melted cheese today, but the cheese wasn't melted and there was too much butter. The fries were cold.

Jonathan Levine
Arts, U1

The food is edible, cold sandwiches are fresh and the toasted turkey sandwiches are good quality. The breakfast special is a very good way to start your day. It's a good buy at \$1.50.

Susan Sederoff
Arts, U1

The salad bar lacked quality, the vegetables were not fresh. The prices of all foods are too expensive they are ripping us off. The employees are inefficient, the service is too slow, and the coffee is awful.

Larry Schwartz
Arts U2

...

There have been numerous complaints by students that they have found insects in their sandwiches and juices. In response to this, Food Service Director, Ralph Walter said "There is a problem with little fruit flies throughout the Union Building. I spray the kitchen with the strongest insect repellent in the morning and in the afternoon when the shift is over."

Walter told *the Daily* that an exterminator and inspector come to the kitchen once a month. "Students' Society has a contract with a professional inspection company."

In response to the students' criticisms a cafeteria employee who wishes to remain anonymous said "the french fries and the daily special sit in the steam table all day but are replenished periodically. Everything is prepared fresh daily, even the specials. There is a certain amount of preparation the day before, but everything is fresh."

"The muffins are baked fresh here every day, twelve to thirteen hundred are made in this kitchen daily. A couple of women make the cold sandwiches daily."

In response to the price complaints, Walter said "since 1984, prices came down and remained fixed."

This semester the breakfast specials increased for \$1.49 to \$1.75. But "when you consider the cost of what you're eating, two eggs, two rations of bacon or ham, two slices of toast with butter, hash brown potatoes, lettuce, tomato and coffee, you're getting a good deal. At \$1.49 we were just breaking even. At the beginning of 1985 we started off at \$1.49 as a promotional offer, intended for only 4-6 weeks."

Media duel at Geneva

by Joe Heath

For years, *Pravda*, the official newspaper of the USSR has clumsily presented world events with an often outrageously pro-Soviet slant. More recently however, the newspaper has begun to adopt the more subtle propaganda techniques that characterize many Western papers.

V. Bogdanov, Second Secretary of the USSR Embassy Press Office recently sent *The Daily* an article entitled "When the world came to Geneva," translated and reprinted from *Pravda*.

The article, although far from objective, is much cooler than past Soviet material. Expressions such as "imperialist dogs" have been dropped entirely, in favour of a somewhat lighter tone.

Several sentences which typify the more subtle bias are: "The Soviet side, whose position was constructive and consistent throughout, deserves a lot of credit for whatever was accomplished at Geneva....It was those six hours of face to face dialogue, which the Soviet side approached as principled, constructive, well-argued and allowing no skirting around the truth of dramatic issues for the sake of diplomacy, that were decisive for the success of the meeting."

The article does not directly condemn the Americans, but it does poke fun at them. An American official is quoted as telling reporters that he would tell them "anything but the content of the talks. Would you like

to know what the president is wearing?"

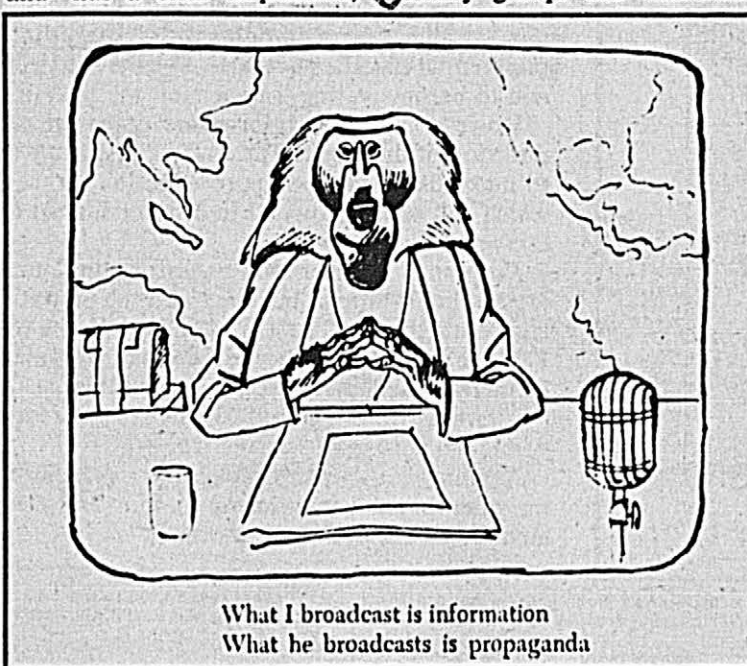
They also report that "The (press) blackout was impenetrable; there were none of the usual American leaks."

The article is certainly less than deadpan, and often a little snide: "His (US security advisor's) job was to persuade the reporters, who bombarded him with questions, that the administration was 'unanimous' and 'has a clear disposition,

technique of defending propaganda by calling it fact.

"This was no 'propaganda war', as some Western periodicals called it. These experts knew what they were talking about, and helped many Western journalists better understand the realism of the solutions the USSR was proposing."

The writers were less than enthused by the presence of reactionary groups like American



whatever that means." The writers report that "waves had been created by the leaking to the press of the Weinberger letter, in which the Secretary of Defense pleaded with Reagan not to yield 'on a single item of the negotiations'...But the question still stood: could the ultra-conservatives really succeed in torpedoing the summit?"

Pravda employs the characteristically western press

Women for SDI and West European Women for Peace Through Real Defense. As they put it, "Swollen by a cool three million bucks in subsidies, the 'Star women', as they were called, came to Geneva to lend moral support to the president. Their spokesperson was a Mrs. Schlafly, an energetic dowager introduced to the press as a 'dynamic speaker'.

"This year la Schlafly was

given the seal of approval by the conservative Good Housekeeping magazine as the 'third most admired woman in America', but didn't win any brownie points with the press when she piped up that as far as she was concerned, Reagan shouldn't have come to the summit at all."

The article dismisses one of the American concessions, saying, "When the academican (Roald Sagdeyev), who is the director of the Soviet Academy of Sciences' Institute of Space Research, was asked further why he did not believe Reagan's promise 'to believe SDI research findings,' he replied: 'How can I believe him if the U.S. government has refused to sell our institute an ordinary computer?'"

Throughout the article there was a clear Soviet bias. Many facts that supported the Americans were left out. However, many facts conspicuously absent in the Western media that supported the Soviet position were included.

Pravda is owned and controlled by the Soviet government, which plays an active role in the arms race. Most of the American media is controlled by corporations with similar interests. NBC, for instance, is owned by General Electric, which is involved in production of Trident, MX and Poseidon missiles.

Although *Pravda* has always been less than subtle, with the new print run of an english edition, and wider readership in North America, they are beginning to learn Western subtlety,

the McGill Daily

comment

CPR saves lives

Dear McGill Population,

Hi, I hope all is well. Now that the Christmas lights are put away and you are trying to think up some worthy New Year's Resolutions, I'd like to suggest that you undertake to learn a basic first aid skill: Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).

CPR is the process whereby one produces an artificial heartbeat in the cardiac arrest victim by compressing and releasing the chest, forcing the blood to flow. These compressions are interspersed with artificial respiration, and this combination allows the rescuer to maintain 25-35% of normal circulation. It may sound like a rather complicated procedure, but with the proper training (a 4 hour Heart Saver course or 15 hour Basic Cardiac Life Support course), anyone can do it.

CPR is not a useless skill. Statistics compiled in the U.S. and made available by the Québec Heart Foundation indicate that if CPR is initiated within 4 minutes of the arrest and extended care follows within 8 minutes- there is a 43% survival rate among cardiac arrest victims. If 8-12 minutes pass before CPR is performed, this drops to 6%. For 12 minutes and up, it is 0%.

However, in spite of the fact that CPR courses are quite accessible (through St. John's Ambulance, Concordia, various CEGEPs and municipalities), astonishingly few people (about 1 in 10 000 in Québec) show enough concern for their fellow men and women to spend a few bucks and a few hours acquiring the skill. But perhaps that shouldn't be too surprising...apathy, indifference, and the 'me first' attitude tend to blind people to the need to save lives.

In an attempt to pry unseeing eyes open, I'd like to leave you all with a thought: somewhere, sometime, somehow, someone you love (of any age, health or build; it could be your parents, your spouse, your child) drops lifeless into the dirt with a cardiac arrest. With a few short hours of training, you could help. With that help, the chances for survival are 50-50. Without it, the person will quite likely DIE.

If nobody else is worth it, aren't they?

Don Mathewson

P.S. Don't just think about it...worry about it....



I think therefore I'll join *The Daily*

notes from below

Following in the great tradition of Campbell's Soup, Anacin, and all manners of laundry detergent, the *McGill Daily* has undertaken a gargantuan public opinion poll. The survey is being undertaken to see whether or not the *McGill Daily* is actually fulfilling the desires of students.

Ideally, student newspapers, because they are not totally reliant on commercial funds, are able to print contentious material, without having to fear a loss of financial support. In this sense, they represent the only truly 'free press' in our society.

All of us, as students, pay for this liberty, to the tune of 6¢ an issue. Because of this, we all have certain rights with respect to the paper. We all have the right to preferential classified ad rates, to have letters printed, to contribute to the paper, and to become voting members on the staff of *The Daily*.

However, most of us, for whatever reason, do not exert much influence on the direction of the paper. The staff of *The Daily* recognizes this, and in an attempt to make the newspaper more accessible to the students, is conducting a survey which will be instrumental in determining the editorial direction of the paper in this and following years.

Daily staff members will be distributing questionnaires in the Administration lobby, the Bronfman building, and the Stewart Biology building starting today, and continuing until next Wednesday. We are trying to staff tables from 09h00 to 17h00, but due to the busy schedules of staff members, will probably be unable to be there all the time. If you miss the tables at ID validation, feel free to drop by the *Daily* office in Union B-03, and fill out a form. All replies are anonymous and confidential.

Anyone who wants to extend their input into their student newspaper beyond the questionnaire is welcome to join *The Daily*, simply drop by Union B-03 anytime before one in the morning.

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Harlequin Romance substitute for alcohol

by Samantha Brennan
Canadian University Press

Enter the world of Harlequin Romances.

Welcome to a world of travel, love and adventure, where young orphaned women meet strong capable men. Girl meets boy. Girl hates boy. Girl loves boy and finally boy loves girl. It's a world of fantasy and whether right or wrong it's an escape many women need.

For Susan, a 20 year old Dalhousie University student, Harlequins are a much needed break from a stream of essays, tests and papers. She's living far away from home and in need of emotional support. On Sunday afternoons she often picks up her room-mate's most recent Harlequin (she says she'd never buy one) and relaxes for an hour of mindless adventure.

Susan is not alone. Thousands of women read Harlequin Romances. But the negative and stereotypical portrayal of women in Harlequins has feminists asking why women read them at all. The inadequacy of existing research on this subject has some feminist academics giving Harlequins a fresh look.

Angela Miles, a sociology professor at St. Francis Xavier university in Nova Scotia, says she recently "came out" as a Harlequin reader and is touring the lecture circuit to talk about her experiences and ideas.

She says understanding why women need and read romances is essential to an understanding of women's lives. Miles believes the deeply emotional experience of Harlequin reading is about love not sex, nurturing not seducing and mother love, not male hero worship.

Miles says that her interest in Harlequins made her look for other feminist work on the issue. When she found it, she says it was disappointing.

"Feminists just haven't applied the feminist principle of using your own experience when dealing with Harlequin romances."

Instead she found essays that talked about how horrible Harlequins were without asking why women read them. Miles says the feminists who actually did talk to Harlequin readers still treated them as an other, an alien species.

"We all recognize the faint echo of the myth of knight in shining armour riding off on the white horse. What is it about this myth that attracts women?"

When speaking in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia her lecture, "Confessions of a Harlequin Reader" attracted a crowd about as unusual as the lecture topic itself. Sitting in a semi-circle around Miles were feminist academics, women Harlequin readers and one male

aspiring Harlequin writer anxious to meet his readers.

"You don't have to do a lot of research to find out that Harlequin's message is that your life has no meaning without a man."

She admits it's no surprise feminists are upset with Harlequins and the myths of women's powerlessness they perpetuate. But Miles says we must take the questions further and ask what is it about the Harlequin romance that is so attractive to women.

"I have been out as a Harlequin reader for awhile now,"

had to "come out" as a Harlequin reader, said Miles.

"I didn't send out cards," she says. "But I dropped it into the conversation whenever I could." She says she watched herself finding ways to defend her habit.

"I asked them (my friends) what is wrong with women fantasizing about finding love, never doing housework and see exotic places?" But still these reasons failed to satisfy her questions.

Miles says she began to look at the dialogue and plot of Harlequins to find out what was

provide them — love, affection and nurturing. These are things we associate with our mother, says Mile.

Using dozens of quotes from Harlequins, Miles shows the male hero as someone who washes the heroine's feet, tucks her in bed and buttons up her coat. The woman is childlike and submissive. Miles says it's significant that the heroine in Harlequins is usually an orphan living in the home of the male hero.

Miles says you can pick up any Harlequin Romance to find examples of these characters.

barassed flush staining her cheeks. After last night she was all too aware that she deserved the censure she could hear in his voice. To her surprise, he reached across the table and touched her clenched hand with gently fingers... "Just make sure you don't do it again," he said severely, then flashed her a wide smile."

Only later when she falls in love with Jess does Stefanie realize that it's essential she tell Jess her real age. The book chronicles Jess' many attempts to care for Stefanie — he's saved her from drowning, given her tours of the beach and even cooked meals for her. Fantasy.

This is the key to the Harlequin experience — fantasy and emotion.

"She's on an emotional roller coaster ride created by the writers."

She says the heroine moves from resistance to love to rejection and then to reconciliation.

Both Harlequin romances and mother-child relationships contain this mix of nurturing and dominance, Miles says.

Miles is quick to reject the theory that women have a psychological need to reconcile conflict with their mother. Instead she says Harlequins can act as a psychological "lever" to ease pressure in difficult times.

Claire Harrison is a writer of Harlequin Romances. While Harrison also says emotion is the key to the Harlequin, she says the genre has changed considerably since feminists began attacking it for its portrayal of women as helpless and unsuccessful without a man.

Harrison says the Harlequin heroine is now older, sophisticated, smart and well able to support herself. But she admits that the details of the heroine's life aren't that important to the overall book.

"What's important is that the emotional terrain between the two has to be mapped out precisely. ...Who cares what the heroine's career is, what the hero's career is?" Harrison says.

On the last page of "The Turn of the Tide," Jess turns to Stefanie as they lay in bed. "Marry me soon, love," he murmurs. "Very soon." The fantasy is complete, for Harlequins rarely tell what happens after the kiss and inevitable proposal.

They're nice books about nice people leading nice lives. Says Harrison, "It has to be a nice world. The readers don't want to read about a world where there is cancer and the threat of nuclear war or inflation."

And although readers, writers and analysts all agree Harlequins are an escapist fantasy, as Miles says, they're better than other routes women use to escape, like valium or alcohol.



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"One thing Harlequins are about is not having to mother men, which is something married women know lots about. If you're looking for mothering you turn to Harlequins."

She says Harlequins are able to provide women with emotional rewards society fails to

She's right. "The Turn of the Tide," a Harlequin Romance, by Samantha Day tells the tale of Stefanie Hart, a woman who recently left her job and is vacationing in Nanaimo, B.C. Stefanie is an orphan without family or friends and she's getting away from a shattered romance.

Enter Jesse Stuart — the older man. He mistakes Stefanie for a teenage girl and this is the base from which their romance forms. She plays the part of the young impetuous girl anxious to learn and he is only too willing to teach her.

"She sat quietly, an em-

Harlequin Romance substitute for alcohol

by Samantha Brennan
Canadian University Press

Enter the world of Harlequin Romances.

Welcome to a world of travel, love and adventure, where young orphaned women meet strong capable men. Girl meets boy. Girl hates boy. Girl loves boy and finally boy loves girl. It's a world of fantasy and whether right or wrong it's an escape many women need.

For Susan, a 20 year old Dalhousie University student, Harlequins are a much needed break from a stream of essays, tests and papers. She's living far away from home and in need of emotional support. On Sunday afternoons she often picks up her room-mate's most recent Harlequin (she says she'd never buy one) and relaxes for an hour of mindless adventure.

Susan is not alone. Thousands of women read Harlequin Romances. But the negative and stereotypical portrayal of women in Harlequins has feminists asking why women read them at all. The inadequacy of existing research on this subject has some feminist academics giving Harlequins a fresh look.

Angela Miles, a sociology professor at St. Francis Xavier university in Nova Scotia, says she recently "came out" as a Harlequin reader and is touring the lecture circuit to talk about her experiences and ideas.

She says understanding why women need and read romances is essential to an understanding of women's lives. Miles believes the deeply emotional experience of Harlequin reading is about love not sex, nurturing not seducing and mother love, not male hero worship.

Miles says that her interest in Harlequins made her look for other feminist work on the issue. When she found it, she says it was disappointing.

"Feminists just haven't applied the feminist principle of using your own experience when dealing with Harlequin romances."

Instead she found essays that talked about how horrible Harlequins were without asking why women read them. Miles says the feminists who actually did talk to Harlequin readers still treated them as an other, an alien species.

"We all recognize the faint echo of the myth of knight in shining armour riding off on the white horse. What is it about this myth that attracts women?"

When speaking in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia her lecture, "Confessions of a Harlequin Reader" attracted a crowd about as unusual as the lecture topic itself. Sitting in a semi-circle around Miles were feminist academics, women Harlequin readers and one male

aspiring Harlequin writer anxious to meet his readers.

"You don't have to do a lot of research to find out that Harlequin's message is that your life has no meaning without a man."

She admits it's no surprise feminists are upset with Harlequins and the myths of women's powerlessness they perpetuate. But Miles says we must take the questions further and ask what is it about the Harlequin romance that is so attractive to women.

"I have been out as a Harlequin reader for awhile now,"

had to "come out" as a Harlequin reader, said Miles.

"I didn't send out cards," she says. "But I dropped it into the conversation whenever I could." She says she watched herself finding ways to defend her habit.

"I asked them (my friends) what is wrong with women fantasizing about finding love, never doing housework and see exotic places?" But still these reasons failed to satisfy her questions.

Miles says she began to look at the dialogue and plot of Harlequins to find out what was

provide them — love, affection and nurturing. These are things we associate with our mother, says Mile.

Using dozens of quotes from Harlequins, Miles shows the male hero as someone who washes the heroine's feet, tucks her in bed and buttons up her coat. The woman is childlike and submissive. Miles says it's significant that the heroine in Harlequins is usually an orphan living in the home of the male hero.

Miles says you can pick up any Harlequin Romance to find examples of these characters.

barassed flush staining her cheeks. After last night she was all too aware that she deserved the censure she could hear in his voice. To her surprise, he reached across the table and touched her clenched hand with gently fingers... "Just make sure you don't do it again," he said severely, then flashed her a wide smile."

Only later when she falls in love with Jess does Stefanie realize that it's essential she tell Jess her real age. The book chronicles Jess' many attempts to care for Stefanie — he's saved her from drowning, given her tours of the beach and even cooked meals for her. Fantasy.

This is the key to the Harlequin experience — fantasy and emotion.

"She's on an emotional roller coaster ride created by the writers."

She says the heroine moves from resistance to love to rejection and then to reconciliation.

Both Harlequin romances and mother-child relationships contain this mix of nurturing and dominance, Miles says.

Miles is quick to reject the theory that women have a psychological need to reconcile conflict with their mother. Instead she says Harlequins can act as a psychological "lever" to ease pressure in difficult times.

Claire Harrison is a writer of Harlequin Romances. While Harrison also says emotion is the key to the Harlequin, she says the genre has changed considerably since feminists began attacking it for its portrayal of women as helpless and unsuccessful without a man.

Harrison says the Harlequin heroine is now older, sophisticated, smart and well able to support herself. But she admits that the details of the heroine's life aren't that important to the overall book.

"What's important is that the emotional terrain between the two has to be mapped out precisely. ... Who cares what the heroine's career is, what the hero's career is?" Harrison says.

On the last page of "The Turn of the Tide," Jess turns to Stefanie as they lay in bed. "Marry me soon, love," he murmurs. "Very soon." The fantasy is complete, for Harlequins rarely tell what happens after the kiss and inevitable proposal.

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"She sat quietly, an em-

Rural areas shortchanged in health care

by Anna Asimakopulos

Inadequate health care in rural areas is a problem which has affected not only Québec, but most other Canadian provinces. The problem arises because the bulk of recently graduated doctors generally opt to practice in urban areas, leaving the outlying regions with insufficient medical care.

Each province has attempted to cope with the problem in a different manner. In Québec, Bill 27, passed December 1981, penalizes those recently graduated physicians practicing in urban areas by allowing them to bill only 70 percent of the regular rate for each medical service which they perform. The rest of Québec is mapped into regions which allow billing of up to 115 percent for general practitioners and 120 percent for specialists.

Bill 27 was reputedly an incentive program but according to Dr. Brian Conway, Vice President Internal Affairs for the Fédération des médecins résidents et internes du Québec (FMRIQ), the government announced in May 1982 that the Bill would apply a month later, and many recent graduates could not uproot themselves with such short notice "So don't tell me that it was an incentive program — it was dollar saving," he said. Conway claims the government is saving from 10 to 15 million dollars a year with Bill 27.

Whether intended as an incentive program or not, Bill 27 has not succeeded in drawing physicians to rural areas and the problem of inadequate health care remains.

In order to determine what

draws people to outlying areas, the FMRIQ performed a survey of interns and residents. The survey identified three groups of individuals; those who will never wish to work in outlying areas (63 percent of specialists and 41 percent of general practitioners), those who were willing to work in outlying areas without additional incentives (7.5 percent of specialists and 25.2 percent of GP's) and those who would practice in the periphery given reasonable incentives (29.5 percent of specialists and 33.8 percent of GP's).

Based in part on the survey, the FMRIQ has adopted a proposal which would modify Bill

27 and create a third category allowing for physicians to go to the periphery for one year, earn 115 percent and if they choose, return to an urban area and not be penalized, thereby earning 100 percent of the billing rate.

According to Conway, the advantage to this proposal is twofold; "only those who want to will go." As well, "as soon as the next doctors graduate, there will be an influx of approximately 150 doctors in the periphery. Of those 150 only about 75 would remain. Eventually over five years, the problem would be solved," he said.

However, in response to this proposal, Professor Lee Soderstrom, a Professor of

economics at McGill who specializes in health economics said "how would you like to have your doctors changed every year? There would be no continuity.

"The arrangement would be nice for interns and residents," he said. "This sort of arrangement says 'let us do what we want' and would be a costly scheme," he added.

According to Conway, the FMRIQ proposal would cost approximately 11 million dollars more than the current scheme over five years.

Some of the enticement schemes implemented by the government have had a measure of success. One such scheme in-

volves bursaries awarded by the Régie de l'Assurance-Maladie du Québec, which according to FMRIQ statistics, accounts for 50 percent of the new medical manpower going to remote areas.

If they choose to practice in an outlying area, some physicians do end up staying because of favorable working conditions. There is frequently less bureaucracy, more responsibility and it takes less time to have a position as an administrator, says Conway. "Once people get out there, they do consider staying longer." However, "the three year business is too long; it won't tempt people," he added.

With the problem of rural health still unsolved, Québec, as well as other provinces have been considering a regional billing system such as the one instituted in BC. The system there limits the number of billing numbers (i.e. permits to practice) available under the medicare system in each region.

Such a system would result in some physicians practicing in areas which they dislike, and says Conway, this will result in people leaving. "If I was somewhere I didn't like, I would leave whenever possible and be far less available to my patients," he said.

Dr. Joan Robillard, President of the Association of Interns and Residents of McGill (AIRM) said "I would rather work for ten years at 70 percent than be where I didn't want to be."

However, according to Soderstrom physicians should be treated as any other occupational group. "There is no other continued on page 7



Frobisher Bay, N.W.T. Spot the doctor in this picture

...McGill meets Central America

continued from page 1

With regards to Nicaraguan foreign policy, Alper said the government's position is: "Nicaragua did not go through a revolution in which fifty thousand people died simply to go from one master (the United States) to another master (the Soviets). The conflict in Nicaragua is not to be seen in East/West terms but rather as one between a poor underdeveloped country and a rich developed northern power."

Alper also described how the people of Granada, a town in Nicaragua, had turned out in the streets in huge numbers to welcome the march.

"Everywhere we went in Nicaragua as well as the other countries in the region, people expressed a simple desire to live in peace and wanted to be left alone so that they may go about their tasks as they saw fit" he said.

The next country the mar-

chers visited was Honduras, where they were met by elite cobra troops armed with machine guns and teargas masks. These troops initially refused to speak to the marchers. It was only five hours later that they spoke to the leader of the group, Blaise Bonpare, only to insult him. He was told that the march would not be allowed to enter Honduras and that is how the situation has remained ever since.

"There have been big demonstrations inside Honduras in support of the march," Alper said. "I even heard on a Honduran radio station that there are more than fifty thousand young people waiting to welcome the march. In addition, a group of women have been keeping a constant vigil outside the main cathedral in Tegucigalpa. Yet the government says no," he added.

At present, a small delegation has flown to the Honduran capital to talk with the govern-

ment. But no news has been heard from them. It was confirmed yesterday that another delegation that had flown to San Salvador, the capital of El Salvador, has also been refused permission to enter the country. This was in spite of huge demonstrations in the streets of San Salvador supporting the march.

"The Duarte government has very little power" said Alper, "and this is an indication of it. This is the government that agreed to a ten day Christmas truce with the rebels, but whose own army did not respect it and continued to bomb civilians in rebel held areas," he said. "I heard about this on El Salvadoran radio while I had to wait in San Salvador airport on my way back to Canada" he added.

To add to the setbacks faced by the marchers, Guatemala, which had originally agreed to the march, has also decided to withdraw its support. However,

the marchers will make an attempt to attend the inauguration of President Vinicio Cerezo. It remains to be seen whether the elected president of this country will allow this.

In view of the prevailing circumstances Alper feels he must ask a few questions. "Despite 1986 being the International year for peace, why does the Honduran government refuse this opportunity for international dialogue? Why, if the Honduran government is interested in peace, does it allow U.S. backed contras to operate from its territory? Should the Canadian taxpayer be paying \$18 million (as they did in the fiscal year 84-85) to a country that does not allow Canadian citizens to enter the country to talk of peace."

When asked to sum up his impressions on his involvement in the march, Alper said "The picture I receive in the North American media about Central America is very different from

the reality that I saw there. The Canadian government in particular should rethink its policies towards Central America and not aid the governments of Costa Rica and Honduras which attack and malign Canadian citizens interested in developing a positive international dialogue."

"Contrary to the popular view of Nicaragua being a closed society, I was able to meet and openly discuss all sorts of issues with both pro and anti government parties. But every where I went the message was the same. People want to live in peace and be left alone to determine what they think is best for them."

The march ends January 22 in Mexico city, after which a delegation will go to Washington to present President Reagan with the marchers' conclusions. Persons interested in the activities of the marchers can contact David Alper at 849-9629.

Fun below zero

by B.M.X.Wildebeeste

Christine H. (not her real name) squints against the driving snow she's streaking through at 20 km/hr. Her ribs strain against the lycra of her racing suit with each laboured breath. A small icicle of frozen saliva bumps insistently against her chin. The pulse monitor on her wrist, if she could see it through her clenched eyelids, would read 185 beats per minute.

A subarctic version of Dante's *Inferno*? Nope — just an uphill stretch of the 5 km race at the end of the McGill Nordic Ski Team's preseason training camp. And this skier is just one of thirty-five team members at Mont Ste. Anne at the end of a grueling autumn of "dry land" training.

Step back now, out of earshot of Christine's wheezing exhalations. You'll see a graceful form in red and white lycra, swaying like a speed skater up the grade. Her arms swing long graphite-fibre poles through an arc reminiscent of a canoeist's forward stroke. This is the new technique known as 'offset skating' — Canada's contribution to the current technical revolution in X-C ski racing.

McGill coach Tom Silletta, standing atop the rise with stopwatch in hand, shouts a word of encouragement. There's more behind his impish grin than a fine view of the St. Lawrence

and perfect tracks — a touch of pride, maybe, in this athlete who he knows put on skis for the first time only a year ago? Tom shrugs modestly: "That's life." She drops over the other side in a tight clamshell tuck, and is gone.

Silletta and his assistant coaches, who compete themselves, have a lot to be proud of. In a province where nordic racing revolves around shop-sponsored clubs, they've built a strong, competent university team. They volunteer their time to work with skiers of all abilities (including novices) from the university and the community at large. No one who works hard is "cut" from the team. The result? A large team that trains cooperatively and races enthusiastically.

In the past four years, the traditional diagonal stride (pas alternatif), in which the adherent properties of ski wax are used to push against the snow, has slowly been vanishing from the racing scene. Elite racers have abandoned the use of "kick wax" and instead use their ski edges to push off, like an ice skater. This year, as a way of preserving the old techniques, two types of races will be held: freestyle races in which anything (i.e. skating) goes, and classic races where skating is prohibited except on corners.

In addition to entering skiers in both types of races in eastern Canada, McGill will also send

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two team members abroad: one to race in Scandinavia, the other to the European races of the World Loppet series (X-C's most prestigious citizen's races).

Another red and white clad figure starts up the hill. Not having learned to skate yet, he slogs upward, eyes fixed on his ski tips. He glances up, sees Silletta at the top, and through a superhuman effort manages to skate one strike. Poles bending ominously, he lifts a ski and...falls flat on his face in the snow. Silletta applauds, eyes twinkling. He's seen worse skiers become astonishingly good.

...rural health

continued from page 6
occupational group that can choose where they want to work," he added.

As it stands now, "there are too many physicians and if things go on as they are there will be a gross surplus. Regional distribution is part and parcel of the problem," said Soderstrom. According to Robillard, the

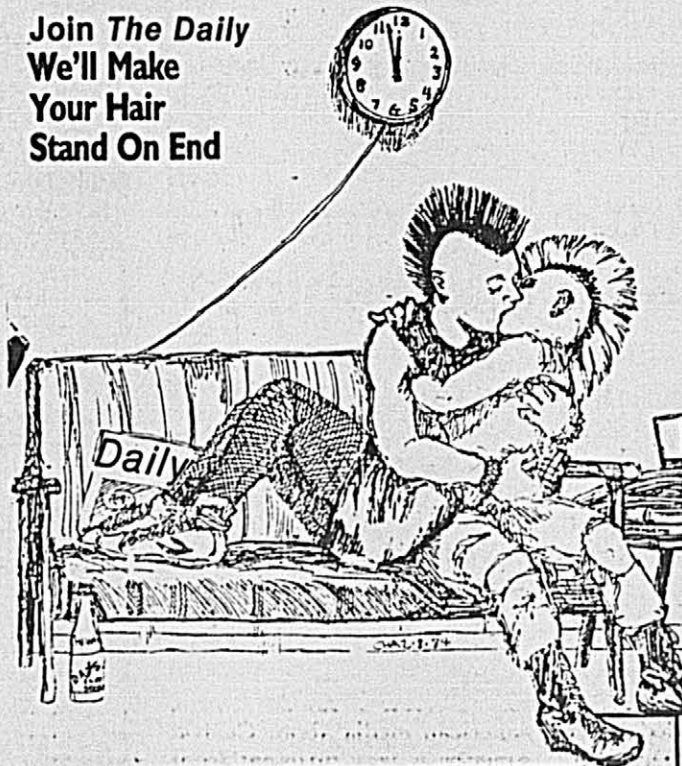
"situation for people at McGill is worse; many of them are anglophone and don't want to go to the periphery."

An added concern of the FMRIQ is that the implementation of a limited number of billing numbers under medicare might bring is that in the long term there will be more people working outside the medical

system, thereby setting up a parallel system of medical care.

A meeting between the FMRIQ and the new health minister, Thérèse Lavoie-Roux will be held sometime within the next month. According to Conway, Lavoie-Roux is in favor of regional billing in order to solve the problem "we hope to educate her soon," he said.

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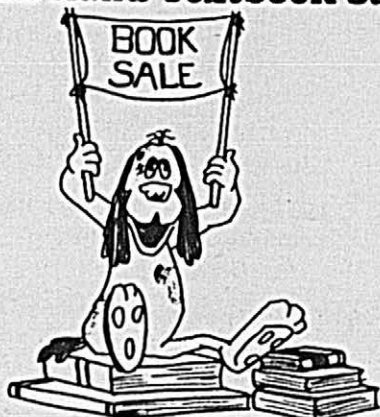
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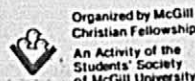
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The arts in cultural context, with special emphasis on non-Western aesthetic systems, the creative process, the purposes and "meanings" of artistic production, and the effects of foreign influences in indigenous art.
Professor Aronson

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